

Remarks

Claims 1, 15-49, 54-56, 62, 63, and 65-73 are pending in the application, with claims 1, 16, 17, 49, 55, 56, 63, and 67, being the independent claims. Claims 2-14, 50-53, 60, 61, 64 and 57-59 were cancelled by previous amendment. Claims 1, 15, 49, 54-56, 62, 63, 65 and 66 were previously withdrawn from further consideration as being drawn to a non-elected invention, there allegedly being no allowable generic or linking claim.

Obviousness-Type Double Patenting Rejection

Claims 16-48 and 67-73 have been rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as allegedly being unpatentable over claims 1, 4-8, 11, 14, 15, 20-22, and 26 of U.S. Patent No. 7,173,102 B2 ("the '102 patent"). Applicants submit with this Reply, a Notice of Appeal, a Pre-Appeal Brief Request for Review, and Arguments to accompany the Pre-appeal Brief Request for Review.

Provisional Obviousness-Type Double Patenting Rejection

Claims 16-48 and 67-73 were provisionally rejected under obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 49-53 of co-pending U.S. Appl. No. 11/980,785, the divisional application of the above-captioned application. Applicants disagree. However, solely in the interest of expediting prosecution, Applicants are filing a terminal disclaimer over co-pending Application No. 11/980,785 herewith. Therefore, Applicants submit this rejection has been rendered moot.

Conclusion

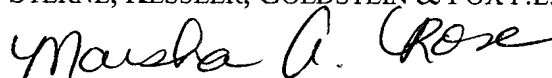
Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding rejections and that they be withdrawn. Applicants believe the present application is in condition for allowance.

If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Reply is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.



Marsha A. Rose
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No. 58,403

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1100 New York Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20005-3934
(202) 371-2600
973378_1.DOC